



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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KENTUCKY AWARDED GRANT FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky Department of Education has been selected to receive funding under the [Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act Program](#).

It is anticipated that the funding will be for three years with the department receiving nearly \$364,000 in the first year of the grant. The grant will support the Reaching Academic Potential Project on which the department is partnering with the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University and the Jefferson County Public Schools.

The project is designed to provide professional learning to school leaders on the excellence gap, the gap between gifted and talented students and their peers, and increase state capacity to identify and serve more underrepresented students in gifted and talented programs.

Specifically, the money will go toward the implementation of the Young Scholars Model in 10 Jefferson County schools over the course of the grant with a potential impact on between 500 and 1,000 students. The schools have yet to be identified.

As part of the program, each school will select a teacher to earn Gifted and Talented Endorsement who will serve as the project leader at their site. The program will increase the identification of underrepresented students in grades K-3 and provide professional learning to teachers in those grades to enhance their understanding of gifted behaviors. Teacher learning will focus on instructional methods to differentiate instruction, advance curriculum resources to meet the needs of gifted students as well as classroom strategies to promote critical and creative thinking. The project also will provide social and emotional supports to students along with parent engagement activities.

It is anticipated that as a result of the grant, students identified as Young Scholars will demonstrate higher achievement and greater growth in reading and math than comparable students at non-participating schools. If the outcomes prove to be effective, in the future the state could consider scaling the Young Scholars Model to other schools throughout Kentucky.

(more)

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Named after the longtime U.S. Senator from New York, Jacob Javits, the grant program is part of the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, which Congress reauthorized as Title V, Part D, Subpart 6 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The purpose of the program is to carry out a coordinated program of scientifically based research, demonstration projects, innovative strategies, and similar activities designed to build and enhance the ability of elementary and secondary schools to meet the special education needs of gifted and talented students.

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